

Hateful to me, polluted by the  
Romans, And all the busy slavish race  
of men, Shall sink at once, and  
straight another state Rise on a  
sudden round ? Oh to be there! " \*

You will recollect to have read many  
equally improper to engage a  
Christian's full sympathy, and therefore,  
convicting the poetic genius which  
produced them of treachery to the true  
faith, in such efforts to seduce our  
feelings. It is a pernicious circumstance  
in passages of this strain, that the  
special thoughts and images which are  
alien from the spirit of Christianity, are  
implicated with *those general*  
sentiments of anticipation, those  
emotions aspiring to greatness and  
felicity in indefinite terms, which a  
dying Christian, may energetically  
express ; so that through the animated  
sympathy with the general, and as it  
were elementary sentiments, the  
reader's mind is beguiled into  
complacency in the more special ones  
of an antichristian spirit.

Sometimes even very bad men are  
made to display such dignity in death,  
as at once to impart an attraction to  
their false sentiments, and to mitigate  
the horror of their crimes. I recollect  
the interest with which I read many  
years since, in Dr. Young's *Busiris*,<sup>j</sup> the  
proud magnanimous speech at the end  
of which the tyrant dies : these are  
some of the lines :

" I thank these wounds, these raging pains,  
which promise An interview with equals soon  
elsewhere. Great Jove, I come !"

Even the detestable Zanga;<sup>j</sup> in the  
prospect of death, while assured by his  
conscience that "to receive him hell  
blows all her fires," rises to a certain  
imposing greatness, by heroic courage  
tempered to a kind of moral dignity,  
through the relenting of revenge and  
the ingenuous manifestation of  
sentiments of justice. To create an  
occasion of thus com-

\* This is not perhaps one of the best specimens : it is  
the last that has come under my notice. I am certain of  
having read many, but have not recollection enough to  
know where to find them.

t ...Of Young's tragedy of *Busiris* Dr. Johnson remarks, "  
In *Busiris* there are the greatest ebullitions of  
imagination; but the pride of *Busiris* is such as no other  
man can have, and the whole is too remote from known life  
to raise either grief, terror, or indignation."

J See Young's tragedy, "*The Revenge*," brought out in  
1721, at Drury